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**Mini Lesson**

Clarifying Writing

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| CLEAR MOMENT IN TIME | Children have a tendency to write "bed to bed" stories and have difficult focusing on a clear moment in time. Provide children with some wonderful examples and help them to see the importance and impact of a strong focus. | * When I Was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant * Chicken Soup for the Kid’s Soul (a collection of clearly focused personal narratives) * The Paperboy by Dav Pilkey * Smoky Night by Eve Bunting * Night Tree by Eve Bunting * The Great Kapok Tree by Lynn Cherry * Snow Day by Barbara M. Josse * Owl Moon by Jane Yolen |
| FRACTURED FAIRY TALES | Children love fairy tales. Reading fractured versions of fairy tales can be fun, but more importantly, it can teach children basic plot structure and organization skills. After studying different fairy tales and fractured versions, they can follow the structure of the basic tale in order to create their own. Fortunately there are lots of models available. | * True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka * Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by Steptoe * The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch |
| VERBS | Verbs are the powerhouse of voice. Verbs are active. They are action. They take writing from passive to active. A strong verb punches writing up and gives it strength. This list is of picture books that uses verbs effectively. | * The Magic Pebble  by William Steig * Kites Sail High by Ruth Heller |
| FORESHADOWING | A literary device where the author gives the reader clues about events that will occur later in the story. | * Owl Moon by Jane Yolen * Encounter by Jane Yolen * How Many Days to America? by Eve Bunting |

